

The INTEGRATOR,

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Reflections on Basic Training

[Editor's Note: The letter below was sent to the WNTC staff by a former WNTC staff member, Fred Glasby, now in basic training.]

To the Editor:

It's all a game. I look around at the kids with their M-16 rifles, helmets, ammo belts, and fatigues and it looks like war - but it's not. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 year-old kids playing war. None of us know what it's like to take a life, but we practice. We run miles with the weapons and yell, "Kill, Kill, Kill;" we watch hours of films with Jack Webb, John Wayne, and Bob Hope telling us how we are defending the American way of life. I'm afraid by the end of eight weeks of basic, some of us are going to believe it—some of us are going to Kill the "dirty V.C." But so far it's just kids playing games—war games. Some of the kids don't even have to shave yet—but they have to play war games.

Fred Glasby